

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, January 26, 2005

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 26, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord our God, rooted in Your covenant of promise and fulfillment, Your people live by faith.

Because we can recall all the benefits received in the past, we are all the more confident of Your presence with us now and Your guidance of us into the future.

May all the undertakings of this 109th Congress of the United States of America, and the laws that are made by this body, be firmly established in a total commitment to be faithful public servants and transparent leaders of compassion and fidelity, both now and forever.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHOCOLA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO COLERAIN HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the Cincinnati Bengals once again will not be in the Super Bowl this year. Maybe next year. But Cincinnati is blessed with some of the best high school football in the Nation. In fact, for the last 3 years in a row the Ohio State champs have been from my district, from Cincinnati, twice Elder, and now Colerain High School. What a team. They so dominated this year that they went undefeated 15 and zero, and in the final playoff game defeated arguably the second best team in the State by 40 points, and on the rival's home field.

So often we hear that a team's character is a reflection of its head coach. Never before has this statement been so true. Dedication, tenacity, and heart are all words that come to mind when describing Head Coach Kerry Coombs. In his 13 years at the helm, Coach Coombs has not only built one of the most successful high school programs in the country; more importantly, he has positively influenced the lives of countless young men.

So congratulations to Colerain's players, coaches, students, parents, and fans. You have made us all proud.

### URGENT NEED FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO PREVENT WIDE-SCALE LOSS OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC DESTRUCTION AT HOME AND ABROAD

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to view the devastation in Southeast Asia as a result of the tsunami. As appalled as I was by what I saw, I must confess that occasionally my thoughts drifted back to the United States. What would have happened if last September, Hurricane Ivan had veered 40 miles to the west, devastating the city of New Orleans? One likely scenario would have had a tsunami-like 30-foot wall of water hitting the city, causing thousands of deaths and \$100 billion in damage.

The city has always been at risk because of its low-lying location, but that risk has been increased because of rising sea levels, groundwater pumping and the erosion of coastal Louisiana. Twenty-four square miles of wetland disappear every year, since the 1930s an area one and a half times the size of Rhode Island washed away.

Considering the reaction of the American public to the loss of a dozen

people in the recent mud slides in California, it is hard to imagine what would happen if a disaster of that magnitude hit the United States.

The experience of Southeast Asia should convince us all of the urgent need for congressional action to prevent wide-scale loss of life and economic destruction at home and abroad. Prevention and planning will pay off. Maybe the devastation will encourage us to act before disaster strikes.

### ELECTION OF MAJORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 48) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 48

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Mr. Boehner; Mr. Pomo; Mr. Everett; Mr. Lucas of Oklahoma; Mr. Moran of Kansas; Mr. Jenkins; Mr. Gutknecht; Mr. Hayes; Mr. Johnson of Illinois; Mr. Osborne; Mr. Pence; Mr. Graves; Mr. Bonner; Mr. Rogers of Alabama; Mr. King of Iowa; Mrs. Musgrave; Mr. Nunes; Mr. Neugebauer; Mr. Boustany; Mr. Schwarz of Michigan; Mr. Kuhl; Mrs. Foxx; Mr. Conaway and Mr. Fortenberry.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Weldon of Pennsylvania; Mr. Hefley; Mr. Saxton; Mr. McHugh; Mr. Everett; Mr. Bartlett; Mr. McKeon; Mr. Thornberry; Mr. Hostettler; Mr. Jones of North Carolina; Mr. Ryun of Kansas; Mr. Gibbons; Mr. Hayes; Mr. Calvert; Mr. Simmons; Mrs. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia; Mr. Akin; Mr. Forbes; Mr. Miller of Florida; Mr. Wilson of South Carolina; Mr. LoBiondo; Mr. Bradley of New Hampshire; Mr. Turner of Ohio; Mr. Kline; Mrs. Miller of Michigan; Mr. Rogers of Alabama; Mr. Franks of Arizona; Mr. Shuster; Mrs. Drake; Mr. Schwarz of Michigan; Miss McMorris; Mr. Conaway and Mr. Davis of Kentucky.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Portman; Mr. Ryun of Kansas; Mr. Putnam; Mr. Hulshof; Mr. Bonner; Mr. Garrett; Mr. Barrett of South Carolina; Mr. McCotter; Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida; Mr. Hensarling; Mr. Lungren; Mr. Sessions; Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin; Mr. Bradley; Mr. McHenry; Mr. Mack and Mr. Conaway.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE: Mr. Petri; Mr. McKeon; Mr. Castle; Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas; Mr. Norwood; Mr. Ehlers; Mrs. Biggert; Mr. Platts; Mr. Tiberi; Mr. Keller; Mr. Osborne; Mr. Wilson of South Carolina; Mr. Porter; Mr. Kline; Mrs. Musgrave; Mr. Inglis of South Carolina; Miss McMorris; Mr. Marchant; Mr. Price of Georgia; Mr. Fortuno; Mr. Jindal; Mr.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Boustany; Mrs. Foxx; Mrs. Drake and Mr. Kuhl.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Mr. Norwood to rank after Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Shadegg to rank after Mrs. Wilson of New Mexico.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Leach; Mr. Baker; Ms. Pryce; Mr. Bachus; Mr. Castle; Mr. King of New York; Mr. Royce; Mr. Lucas of Oklahoma; Mr. Ney; Mrs. Kelly; Mr. Paul; Mr. Gillmor; Mr. Ryun of Kansas; Mr. LaTourette; Mr. Manzullo; Mr. Jones of North Carolina; Mrs. Biggert; Mr. Shays; Mr. Fossella; Mr. Gary Miller of California; Mr. Tiberi; Mr. Kennedy of Minnesota; Mr. Feeney; Mr. Hensarling; Mr. Garrett of New Jersey; Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida; Mr. Barrett of South Carolina; Ms. Harris; Mr. Renzi; Mr. Gerlach; Mr. Neugebauer; Mr. Price of Georgia; Mr. Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania; Mr. Davis of Kentucky and Mr. McHenry.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM: Mr. Burton; Mr. Shays; Ms. Ros-Lehtinen; Mr. McHugh; Mr. Mica; Mr. Gutknecht; Mr. Souder; Mr. LaTourette; Mr. Platts; Mr. Cannon; Mr. Duncan; Mrs. Miller of Michigan; Mr. Turner of Ohio; Ms. Harris; Mr. Issa; Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida; Mr. Porter; Mr. Marchant; Mr. Westmoreland; Mr. McHenry; Mr. Dent and Ms. Foxx.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Lungren; Mr. Jindal; Mr. Reichert; Mr. McCaul and Mr. Dent.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Ehlers; Mr. Mica; Mr. Doolittle; Mr. Reynolds and Mrs. Miller of Michigan.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Mr. Leach; Mr. Smith of New Jersey; Mr. Burton of Indiana; Mr. Gallegly; Ms. Ros-Lehtinen; Mr. Rohrabacher; Mr. Royce; Mr. King of New York; Mr. Chabot; Mr. McHugh; Mr. Tancredo; Mr. Paul; Mr. Issa; Mr. Flake; Mrs. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia; Mr. Green of Wisconsin; Mr. Weller; Mr. Pence; Mr. McCotter; Ms. Harris; Mr. Wilson of South Carolina; Mr. Boozman; Mr. Mack; Mr. Fortenberry; Mr. McCaul and Mr. Poe.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Hyde; Mr. Coble; Mr. Smith of Texas; Mr. Gallegly; Mr. Goodlatte; Mr. Chabot; Mr. Lungren; Mr. Jenkins; Mr. Cannon; Mr. Bachus; Mr. Inglis of South Carolina; Mr. Hostettler; Mr. Green of Wisconsin; Mr. Keller; Mr. Issa; Mr. Flake; Mr. Pence; Mr. Forbes; Mr. King of Iowa; Mr. Feeney; Mr. Franks of Arizona and Mr. Gohmert.

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES: Mr. Young of Alaska; Mr. Saxton; Mr. Gallegly; Mr. Duncan; Mr. Gilchrest; Mr. Calvert; Mrs. Cubin; Mr. Radanovich; Mr. Jones of North Carolina; Mr. Cannon; Mr. Peterson of Pennsylvania; Mr. Gibbons; Mr. Souder; Mr. Walden of Oregon; Mr. Tancredo; Mr. Hayworth; Mr. Flake; Mr. Renzi; Mr. Pearce; Mr. Nunes; Mr. Brown of South Carolina; Mrs. Drake; Mr. Fortuno; Miss McMorris; Mr. Jindal and Mr. Gohmert.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Mr. Gingrey.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE: Mr. Hall; Mr. Smith of Texas; Mr. Weldon of Pennsylvania; Mr. Rohrabacher; Mr. Calvert; Mr. Bartlett of Maryland; Mr. Ehlers; Mr. Gutknecht; Mr. Lucas of Oklahoma; Mrs. Biggert; Mr. Gilchrest; Mr. Akin; Mr. Johnson of Illinois; Mr. Forbes; Mr. Bonner; Mr. Feeney; Mr. Inglis of South Carolina; Mr. Reichert; Mr. Sodrel; Mr. Schwarz of Michigan and Mr. McCaul.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Mr. Bartlett of Maryland; Mrs. Kelly; Mr. Chabot; Mr. Graves; Mr. Akin; Mrs. Musgrave; Mr. King of Iowa; Mr. McCotter; Mr. Poe; Mr. Sodrel; Mr. Fortenberry; Mr.

Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania; Mr. Westmoreland and Mr. Gohmert.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Mr. Petri; Mr. Boehlert; Mr. Coble; Mr. Duncan; Mr. Gilchrest; Mr. Mica; Mr. Hoekstra; Mr. Ehlers; Mr. Bachus; Mr. LaTourette; Mrs. Kelly; Mr. Baker; Mr. Ney; Mr. LoBiondo; Mr. Moran of Kansas; Mr. Gary Miller of California; Mr. Hayes; Mr. Simmons; Mr. Brown of South Carolina; Mr. Johnson of Illinois; Mr. Platts; Mr. Graves; Mr. Kennedy of Minnesota; Mr. Shuster; Mr. Boozman; Mr. Pearce; Mr. Gerlach; Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida; Mr. Porter; Mr. Osborne; Mr. Marchant; Mr. Sodrel; Mr. Dent; Mr. Poe; Mr. Reichert; Mr. Mack; Mr. Kuhl; Mr. Fortuno; Mr. Westmoreland and Mr. Boustany.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Bilirakis; Mr. Everett; Mr. Stearns; Mr. Moran of Kansas; Mr. Baker; Mr. Simmons; Mr. Brown of South Carolina; Mr. Miller of Florida; Mr. Boozman; Mr. Bradley of New Hampshire; Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida and Mr. Renzi.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### INDIAN NATIONAL REPUBLIC DAY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes as we commemorate Indian National Republic Day. As the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India, and a friend of the Indian American community, I have been privileged to witness and directly participate in the growing Indian-America bond. Our common goal of safeguarding liberty and combating terrorism has united our nations and stimulated an already strong relationship based on values that our cultures share. In the coming years, India and the United States will face many challenges.

As the world comes together and joins forces to help its people, I am positive that the strong ties between India and the United States will serve as an example of fruitful and positive bilateral relations.

And in that spirit I extend my best wishes to the people of India and Indian Americans in a celebration of such a momentous day, Indian National Republic Day.

#### IN HONOR OF PFC. GEORGE GEER

(Mr. SALAZAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Army Private First Class George Geer, who was killed in the line of duty while serving his country honorably in Iraq.

Each day our men and women willingly face unknown dangers as part of the effort to promote peace and democracy throughout the world. Their individual stories of honor and courage must not be forgotten.

George Geer was from Cortez, Colorado. On January 17, 2005, Pfc. George Geer was killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He was 27 years old.

My heart goes out to George's parents, Harold and Lois, and to his sister, Hope. They too have sacrificed for our Nation. I am humbled by their strength and perseverance in the face of such hardship.

Pfc. George Geer died performing the most noble of deeds, serving and protecting his Nation and fellow countrymen. George and his family have exhibited a rare form of selflessness and courage. I submit this recognition to the U.S. House of Representatives in honor of their sacrifice so that Mr. George Geer may live on in memory.

#### INTELLIGENCE REFORM IS STILL NOT DONE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the House passed intelligence reform legislation last year, and the bill was another step to strengthen efforts against an enemy bent not on our defeat, but on our destruction. But the conference committee was dominated by those that ignored key recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

The final product was watered down. It did not have a plan to prevent illegal immigrants from obtaining driver's licenses. It did not put in place stricter asylum standards, problems identified by the 9/11 Commission as glaring weaknesses in our Nation's defenses.

Mr. Speaker, 19 of the 9/11 hijackers had 63 driver's licenses between them. How can this Nation in a time of war leave such a glaring hole in our Nation's defenses? Mr. Speaker, this was wrong, and that is why I am hopeful that the legislation introduced this week by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), which I cosponsored which strengthens security standards on driver's licenses and asylum standards, will pass. I hope the Senate and the 9/11 Commission will support our efforts to do so.

#### GROWING BUDGET CRISIS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)